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New Claim 23 incorporates the limitations of cancelled Claims 1, 6 and 7.

New Claim 24 incorporates the limitations of cancelled Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13.

New Claim 25 depends from new Claim 24 and corresponds to cancelled Claim 14. New Claim 26 depends from cancelled Claim 25 and corresponds to cancelled Claim 15.

It is noted that the term "peptides" has been omitted from the recital of possible presenting groups in new Claims 23 and 24. There deletions has been made for clarity purposes because original Claim 6 recites the term "peptide" in two different contexts. It is noted that a ligand is one of the possible presenting groups in Claims 23 and 24 and, from the recitation on page 10, lines 14-15, that a ligand can be a peptide. Therefore, this omission does not narrow the scope of new Claims 23 and 24 relative to old Claims 7 and 13.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 103

It was indicated in the last Office Action that Claims 5, 7 and 13-15 would be in condition for allowance if redrafted in independent format, incorporating all of the limitations of the intervening claims.

New Claim 22 corresponds to old Claim 5; and new Claim 23 corresponds to old Claim 7. Both of these claims have been drafted in independent format incorporating all limitations of the intervening claims. Therefore, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

New Claim 24 corresponds to old Claim 13. Claim 24 has been redrafted in independent format incorporating the limitations of Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13. It is noted that Claims 10 and 11 further limit the preceding claims by requiring the terminal amino acid to be selected from a recited group. Because the group recited in Claim 11 is a subset of the group recited in Claim 10, new Claim 24 incorporates all of the limitations of old Claim 10. It is noted further that Claim 9 further limits the preceding claims by requiring the terminal reactive group in the terminal amino acid to be selected from a recited group. The reactive functional groups in the terminal amino acids recited in old Claim 11 are all recited in old Claim 9. Therefore, new Claim 24 inherently incorporates all of the limitations of old Claim 9. Therefore, new Claim 24 is also in condition for allowance.

New Claims 25 and 26 correspond to old Claims 14 and 15, which depend from old Claim 13. New Claims 25 and 26 depend from new Claim 24 and are therefore in condition for allowance.

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New Claim 27 incorporates the limitations of old Claims 5 and 16. Because old Claim 16 is encompassed within old Claim 1, it is believed that new Claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (781) 861-6240.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By SGD
Steven G. Davis, Esq.
Registration No. 39,652
Telephone (781) 861-6240
Facsimile (781) 861-9540

Lexington, Massachusetts 02421-4799

Dated: October 11, 2001

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